

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A wire connector for electrically joining two or more incoming wires having conductors, comprising:

a housing having walls defining a cavity therein with openings in the walls, said openings permitting the incoming wires to extend into the cavity;

an electrically conductive clip disposed in the cavity and held fixed and non-movable in the housing by the walls, the clip having at least first and second retaining fingers each of which engages an individual conductor to hold the conductor fixed in the housing such that the conductive clip electrically joins each conductor of the two or more incoming wires; and

a conductive extension in shorting electrical engagement with the clip and extending through a housing wall to an exterior of the housing, at least a portion of the extension on the exterior of the housing being electrically conductive.

2. (Original) The wire connector of claim 1 wherein the conductive clip has a plurality of tines forming an insulation displacement type connector.

3. (Original) The wire connector of claim 2 having a two-part housing including a base and a cap.

4. (Original) The wire connector of claim 1 wherein the conductive slip has a plurality of fingers forming a push-in type connector.

5. (Original) The wire connector of claim 1 wherein the extension is a blade-type terminal.

6. (Original) The wire connector of claim 1 wherein the extension is a pigtail.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing a push-in wire connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, the housing having walls and the conductive clip held fixed and non-movable in the housing by the walls, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, pushing stripped ends of the conductors of the first and second wires into the housing and into engagement with the clip, and electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing an insulation displacement connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, the housing having walls and the conductive clip held fixed and non-movable in the housing by the walls, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, placing first and second wires adjacent the clip, closing the housing to force the wires' conductors into engagement with the clip, and electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.

9. (New) A wire connector for electrically joining two or more incoming wires having conductors, comprising:

a housing having walls defining a cavity therein with openings in the walls, said openings permitting the incoming wires to extend into the cavity;

an electrically conductive clip disposed entirely within the cavity and held fixed in the housing by the walls, the clip having at least first and second retaining fingers each of which engages an individual conductor to hold the conductor fixed in the housing such that the conductive clip electrically joins each conductor of the two or more incoming wires; and

a conductive extension in shorting electrical engagement with the clip and extending through a housing wall to an exterior of the housing, at least a portion of the extension on the exterior of the housing being electrically conductive.

10. (New) The wire connector of claim 9 wherein the conductive clip has a plurality of tines forming an insulation displacement type connector.

11. (New) The wire connector of claim 10 having a two-part housing including a base and a cap.

12. (New) The wire connector of claim 9 wherein the conductive slip has a plurality of fingers forming a push-in type connector.

13. (New) The wire connector of claim 9 wherein the extension is a blade-type terminal.

14. (New) The wire connector of claim 9 wherein the extension is a pigtail.

15. (New) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing a push-in wire connector having a conductive clip disposed entirely inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, pushing stripped ends of the conductors of the first and second wires into the housing and into engagement with the clip, and electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.

16. (New) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing an insulation displacement connector having a conductive clip disposed entirely inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, placing first and second wires adjacent the clip, closing the housing to force the wires' conductors into engagement with the clip, and electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.